AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) REPORT #1267 – NOV. 23, 2001

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1267 with a release date of
Friday, November 23rd, 2001 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Six meters suprises the world and the night of the meteors are first on this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1267 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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THE BIG 6 METER OPENING

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Cold Open Audio Here: N6KNW working Japan on 6 meters
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That’s Brad Marckwardt, N6KNW, in Santa Clarita California working Japan on Saturday November 17th. No big deal you say? Well the band was 6 meters. It was the wrong time of the year for this kind of D-X. And less we forget, while Brad was working Japan, other hams were making equally amazing 6 meter D-X contacts like California to New York and Alaska to the lower 48. Take a listen:

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Audio Here: Alaska to California, New York to California
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The 6 meter DX was not limited to North America. Reports came in from around the world of similar single, double and even triple hop F 2 contacts.

From Costa Rica, Carlos Diez, TI5KD, reports that he started out the day working Europeans including GW4VEQ at about 13:50 UTC. Ten hours later, at 23:05 UTC Carlos crossed the Pacific with his signal, contacting JA4MBM for his first ever Costa Rica to Japan short path QSO.

The experts say that that the current solar cycle peaked in 2000 and that we are on the downside. But it appears that someone forgot to tell the VHF and UHF bands that its not time for D-X. It simply keeps rolling in on 6 meters and above and seems to get better and better with each opening.

Our thanks to Dave Booth, KC6WFS, who took time out from working some of the DX to make the recordings you heard in this report. And less we forget, the six meter band is still opening up almost every day – at least as this newscast is being prepared. (ARNewsline (tm))

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THE ROCKS IN THE SKY: THE LEONID METEORS AND HAM RADIO

As if the 6 meter opening were not enough to bring bragging rights to many V-H-F enthusiasts, a few hours later came the light show in the sky. It was the Leonid Meteor Shower and hams who enjoy bouncing their signals off the ionized trails of meteors were not disappointed. One of them was Joe Hannigan.

WL7M in Fritz Creek Alaska heard commenting during another 6 meter F2 opening:

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Sound here
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We do not have any of the sounds of the contacts. Much of it is high speed C-W or computerized using WSJT. But we do have some reports courtesy of the VHF Reflector.

Lets start with Sam Horton, KD4ESV of Bradenton Florida. He says that he was operating from grid square E L 87. Horton says that by 18:23 UTC he had worked twelve states including Alaska.

But that's not all. Tim Marek, K7XC, of Fallon Nevada, operating as a Rover from grid square DM09 had one of the best meteor scatter reports. We don't have time to cover it all, but here are a few stations that he worked starting with KB5XC in DM65, then AA7A in Arizona, K7MI in grid CN73 and W7USB in DN17. Tim added that W1IPL in grid DN62 went in the log along with K5JL in EM15 at about 03:23 AM local time.

K7XC says that all of these contacts were made mobile on 2 meters. Marek used an Icom IC 706 Mark 2 G transceiver driving a 170 watt power amplifier into a yagi antenna on his rover vehicle. Marek says that he spent the entire night chasing QSO's on the space borne rocks. He wrote his report at about 6 a-m local time adding that he intended to crawl into bed and planned to sleep till noon. That is, if his pet cat would let him. (ARNewsline(tm))

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY AO-40

The AMSAT Oscar 40 ham radio satellite has celebrated its first year in space. Then called Phase 3 D, the satellite was launched on November 16, 2000 aboard an Ariane 5 booster rocket from Kourou, French Guiana.

Even though the bird suffered some major damage during an orbital transfer maneuver, it has survived. After several months of work by the team at AMSAT Germany, transponder operation started last May 5th. At that time the U-band and L1-band uplinks were connected to the S-2 transmitter passband downlink via the satellites on-board Matrix switch. Since then, hams on Earth have made hundreds of contacts though the satellite.

AO-40 is currently in a long period during in which the Earth eclipses the Sun near perigee. The eclipses actually began about August 28th, and will rapidly increase in length. They will continue well into June 2002. For the current transponder operating schedule visit:
http://www.amsat-dl.org/journal/adlj-p3d.htm (AMSAT-NA)

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BREAK 1

This is ham radio news coming to you from the United States of America. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world, and welcoming the Douglas County Amateur Radio Club's W0UK serving Lawrence,

Kansas.

(5 sec pause here)

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AMERICA AT WAR: FCC GETTYSBURG CHANGES MAIL ADDRESS

We told you it might happen and it has. At least for package deliveries. This, as the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania office, announces that it has moved its mail handling facilities off-site.

The reason is the same as reported for FCC in Washington and CQ Magazine. Simply a precaution in case some of the strange people that we all call terrorists decide to target the Gettysburg licensing facility.

Its all fairly simple. Effective immediately, all overnight couriers, United Parcel Service and Federal Express deliveries have to go to a new location. That address is the FCC Gettysburg, Rear entrance, 35 York Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The change does not affect US Postal Service deliveries. At least not yet. They will continue to be accepted at the office's physical address on Fairfield Road and diverted to the off-site mailroom. (FCC)

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AMERICA AT WAR: VANITY LICENSING ON HOLD

I'm Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, with late breaking news about the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign program which is now, effectively, on hold. This, after the recently announced changes in mail handling procedures at the FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania license processing facility.

As reported, mail directed to the FCC Gettysburg office was being held pending the start of special handling precautions to address any biohazards. Now that ARRL has issued a further bulletin on the matter. It quotes the ARRL's VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. He says that the FCC has processed vanity applications received through October 14. But says Jhanke, vanity applications received after that date remain on hold for now.

There is some good news. The FCC is tracking the receipt date for each piece of mail. Because the agency gives equal priority to paper and electronic applications, all vanity processing was being suspended until the mail situation is resolved. Once the FCC begins opening its backlog of mail, most applications will probably be processed in about 18 days based on date received.

But there could still be problems for another group of filers. These are hams who waited till near the end of the two year grace period on renewing ham radio licenses. Jahnke says applications from those filing for renewal near the end of their two-year grace period will only be accepted for processing if they get to the FCC before the grace period expires.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Henry Freinberg, K2SSQ. (ARRL Bulletin,

FCC)

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AMERICA AT WAR: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SIDE OF RADIO

The media is not only reporting the war against terrorism. According to the Media Network e-newsletter, it has also become heavily involved.

Here in the United States, media organizations like NBC were the first to be targeted by those spreading the anthrax virus. And the e-newsletter says that in Afghanistan, silencing the Taliban's voice and putting in a replacement was one of the first aims of the US led military campaign. That plan seems to be succeeding, with the restoration of "normal" radio services in the key city of Mazar-e-Sharif and a few days later in Kabul itself.

In another development, the psychological warfare broadcasts of "Information Radio" have only been heard irregularly on shortwave. Media Network says that it has contacted those responsible for running the operation to find out its current status.

As soon as Media Network get some updated information, it will be posted at http://www.rnw.nl/realradio/features/html/afghanistan010917.html (Media Network)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC VS. RF ELECTRONICS- AN EPILOGUE

The FCC says that it is thanking the owner of R-F Electronics for his decision to stop selling non certified amplifier kits and says that its closing the matter. But the owner of the company does not appear to be ready to say “you’re welcome.” In fact, Sidney Lee Martin, KD4YBC, is using the World Wide Web to launch a verbal counter attack against the regulatory agency. Amateur Radio Newsline’s David Black, KB4KCH, visited the spot in cyberspace and has the rest of the story:

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Sidney Lee Martin ran afoul of the FCC for allegedly selling illegal power amplifiers for use on amateur HF and 6 meter frequencies. On September 19th, the Commission's Riley Hollingsworth wrote to Martin, telling him to stop the sales -- or face enforcement action.

With the threat of being taken to court and having his amateur radio license put in jeopardy, Martin shut his sales operation down September 25th. And he's taking a few verbal shots at the Commission.

Accusing the agency of being on a jihad, Martin says the FCC attacked and destroyed his business while letting another company continue selling non-certified amplifier kits. Martin says he will use his former business website to provide updates and comments on his tangle with the Commission. He's urging amateurs to ask questions and learn the truth.

In the meantime, the FCC appears to be closing the matter, at least as far as Martin's business is concerned. In an October first letter to Martin, the

FCC's Hollingsworth notes Martin's comments that he has stopped selling non-certified equipment and thanks him for his cooperation.

The letter closes with Hollingsworth saying the Commission will review information Martin supplied about other sources selling non-certified equipment.

From Birmingham Alabama, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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If you are interested in seeing what Martin has to say about the FCC, take your web browser over to http://members.aol.com/rfelectron/rfelect.htm (ARNewsline)

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ENFORCEMENT DOWN UNDER: A VERY BUSY ACA

The United States is not the only place where the government has been actively enforcing its radio regulations. So has the Australian Communications Authority -- or ACA. And the figures for the past year are now in and Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, has them:

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From this years ACA Annual Report we learn that this year, 12 penalties in lieu of prosecution were issued, three are under consideration by the ACA for withdrawal, seven were paid totalling $6,270 Australian, and two went to prosecution. In addition, prosecution proceedings without issuing penalties in lieu were instigated against six other persons for a total of 22 offenses.

During the year, the ACA conducted 1,200 Radiocommunications licence investigations, resulting in the issue of 267 verbal and 557 written warnings. No licence suspensions or cancellation actions were undertaken this year.

The ACA also investigated 781 complaints of interference to Radiocommunications services, and search and rescue authorities were assisted with the location of approximately 104 emergency
position-indicating radio beacons. Although careless handling or faults caused many of these, 21 beacons had been maliciously activated with the intent of disrupting emergency services.

From Q-News Australia, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Be it the United States, Australia or anywhere else, the same words always apply. Don't do the crime if you cant pay the fine. (Q-News, ACA)

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ARRL NEWS: THE BIG PROJECT EXPANDS

Some good news out of Newington. This, with word from the ARRL Schools wishing

to take part in the Big Project can contact Jerry Hill, KH6HU at ARRL Headquarters, Field and Education Section, 225 Main St., Newington Connecticut, 06111. You can also find them in cyberspace at www.arrl.org. (ARRL)

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ARRL NEWS: THE 2001 ARRL DIVISIONAL ELECTIONS

The results are in for the fall 2001 ARRL divisional elections and there are really no big surprises. In the Southeastern Division, Georgia Section Manager Sandy Donahue, W4RU, of Atlanta, Georgia, outpolled West Central Florida Assistant Section Manager Paul Toth, NA4AR, of Seminole, Florida by 478 votes. The final count was Donahue at 2783 and Toth at 2305. Both were contending for the seat being vacated by Vice Director Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR, who decided not to seek a new term after 22 years of service.

In the Southwestern Division, San Diego Section Manager Tuck Miller, NZ6T, of National City, California, defeated Ned Stearns, AA7A, of Scottsdale, Arizona. The vote was 2485 to 2208. Miller assumes the vice director's position being vacated by Art Goddard, W6XD, who ran unopposed for director.

Last but by no means least, incumbent Pacific Division Vice Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, of Castro Valley, California garnered 1924 votes to beat back a challenge by Gerald D. Griffin, K6MD, of Pacific Grove, California. Griffin polled 1225 votes. All those elected officially take office on January 1st, 2002. (ARRL)

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HAM INDUSTRY NEWS: ELECRAFT IMPROVES THE K1

Elecraft's very popular K 1 compact CW transceiver has just became a four-bander. In addition to the 2-band version, the rig is now available with a single band-switched module that covers 40, 30, 20, and either 17 or 15 meters. No hardware or firmware changes are necessary to use the 4-band module and the module can also be ordered as an option to upgrade existing K 1 transceivers. For more information or to order, visit www.elecraft.com or e-mail sales@ elecraft.com. (Elecraft release)

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BREAK 2

News never takes a vacation and neither do we. Coming to you from the United States of America, this is the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world at our only official website -- www.arnewsline.org.

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COMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS: MORE LAYOFFS AT MOTOROLA

High tech giant Motorola has announced that it is reducing its work force by another 7,000 jobs, including an unspecified number of layoffs. The announcement came a day after the telecommunications giant reported a $1.4 billion loss for the quarter ended September 30.

Faced by a weakened economy and slower industry growth in worldwide cellphone sales, Motorola already this year had announced 32,000 job cuts to a work force that stood at 147,000 last December. That would increase the total cuts to 39,000 and trim the work force to approximately 108,000 by the end of the year - a reduction of about 26 percent. A company spokesperson indicated there could be more. (Published news reports)

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HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS: SUPERFEST 2002

The Amateur Electronic Supply 8th annual Superfest open house is now slated for April 5th and 6th 2002 at the AES store in Milwaukee Wisconsin. According to a note from Molly Schreiber of AES, manufacturer representatives will be on hand displaying their wares and several forums are being scheduled. And as in years past, ham radio clubs are being invited to participate with free display space. Information on this and more is at the AES Superfest website. Its a long URL. Its in cyberspace at /www.aesham.com/superfest/sf.html. (AES Release)

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RADIO PUBLICATIONS: DEPARTURE MESSAGE

CW aficionados attention. This one is for you. It’s a new book called Departure Message by Charles Lunsford that tells the story of an enlisted aircrew member flying as an Airborne Radio Operator in the 1950s.

Lunsford’s book traces one of the last of the Radio Operators trained in International Morse Code and who flew in the last aircraft purchased by the United States Air Force which had a Morse key as standard equipment. The book also describes some of the radio and radar aids of the time and the first top-secret transponders for identification.

Departure Message is published on-line by greatunpublished.com and is available in paperback or for download. More information is on the web at greatunpublished.com. (Charles Lunsford)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: APPLE I-POD

Apple Computer has unveiled a revolutionary new portable music player that can hold an entire music collection. It also takes Apple outside its core computer business for the first time in eight years.

The Apple "i-Pod" is the size and shape of a deck of cards, with a small LCD screen and round dial on a white front and a stainless steel back. It holds about 1,000 songs in the MP3 music format and has a battery life of 8to 10 hours.

The only negative. The “i-Pod” currently will only work with Apple Macintosh computers, but that may change. About 7 million existing Macintoshes have the necessary hardware and software to be compatible with iPod. Apple president Steve Jobs says the company is considering porting it to windows based machines as well. (Apple release)

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TECHNOLOGY FAILURE: COMPUTER FAILURE AT THE CALTECH USGS EARTHQUAKE MESSAGING SITE

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake near Anza California on October 30th should have generated an almost-immediate e-mail message to all southern California Seismic Network e-mail subscribers. However, this particular message was delayed about seven hours due to a catastrophic network hardware failure that occurred minutes before the shaker. To subscribe to this free and usually reliable reporting service, see http://pasadena.wr.usgs.gov/latest/mailing_lists.html (CGC Communicator)

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INTERNATIONAL - FRANCE: ARISS-EUROPE QSL ADDRESS

The ARISS-Europe QSL Bureau's address has changed. Effective immediately, all European requests for ARISS QSL cards are to be addressed to AMSAT - France, 14 bis, rue des Gourlis, 92500 Rueil Malmaison, France.

Those applying for a QSL should include a self addressed envelope and two International Reply Coupons to cover the handling cost. The ARISS-Europe QSL Manager is Christophe Candebat, F1MOJ. His email address is F1MOJ@aol.com. (ON1CAU)

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INTERNATIONAL - AUSTRALIA: VK 80 METER SSB BAND TO BE EXPANDED

The Australian 80-meter SSB 'DX Window', at present limited to a 4-kHz segment around 3798 kHz, is due to be expanded - but not until 2004. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, has more:

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The Australian 80-metre SSB 'DX Window', at present limited to a 4-kHz segment around 3798kHz, is due to be expanded - but not until 2004. In Australia, the band 3700 - 3800kHz is presently allocated to the commercial land mobile service, effectively limiting amateur SSB operation to a single frequency. Following an approach by the Wireless Institute of Australia, the Australian Communications Authority has agreed to proceed with a change in the allocation of the band 3776 - 3800kHz. The ACA's intention is to reallocate this band to the amateur service on a primary basis from the 1st of January 2004. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.
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Current commercial users of that spectrum won’t be left out in the cold. They will be moved to existing land mobile spectrum adjacent to the new amateur band by the end of December 2003. (RSGB)

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SPECIAL EVENTS: K7A PEARL HARBOR DAY STATION

Pearl Harbor Day will be celebrated in the ham radio world December 7, 8 and

9, when Special Events Station K7A comes on the air from Phoenix Arizona. K7A will be operational on most High Frequency bands. More information is posted on www.aztenx.org (Superstition ARC)

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DX

In-D-X, Jim Weidner, K2JXW, who is the founder and president of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society announced the groups second annual Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party. The event is scheduled for December 22nd to the 23rd. For more information please visit www.arlhs.com on the world wide web. (News release)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: VK HAM RADIO IN THE AIR ON THE AIR

And finally this week, the story of the celebration of an old airplane and the part played by ham radio. It was an unusual job for hams. Again, from Australia, Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB:

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VK4's Redcliffe & Districts Radio Club Inc. ran a radio link, at the request of Redcliffe City Councillor Ian Poyitt, from an aircraft to Redcliffe Radio Station 99.7 FM. The Link commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Tiger Moth. There was approximately 100 old aircraft participating in this rare fly-past.

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Flight Audio Here
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A hand held scanner's audio was fed directly into the mixing desk. A 2 meter radio using a quarter wave antenna from the aircraft, then a crossband link to take the 2 meter signal from the aircraft and retransmitted this on 70cm using the clubs new Yaesu FT-847.

The flight went off without a hitch with Steve Harris VK4HRS as the Aeronautical Mobile Announcer, having flown for the first time and enjoyed himself immensely.

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Well done Steve and all at the Redcliffe Club. (Q-News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address
is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio

Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at
Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the Dayton Amateur Radio Association has opened the nominating period for the 2002 Dayton Hamvention Awards. There are three awards presented each year. They are the Radio Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement, and Technical Excellence.

All amateurs Novice through Extra are eligible. Awards are decided by the Awards Committee, based partially upon the information received. Magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, videos and the like are appreciated but cannot be returned. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2002. Nominations can be submitted by US Mail to Post Office Box 964, Dayton Ohio 45401 or by completing the convenient e-form on the web at www.hamvention.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, KC5MFA in New Orleans saying God Bless America, 73, and we thank you for listening." Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2001. All rights reserved.